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Agreement Reached To Convene PNC in August

LD311214 Kuwait KUNA in English 1101 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] London, July 31 (KUNA) — PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has said that the Palestinian National Council (PNC) will be convened in mid-August after the agreement reached in this regard between different resistance factions. Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] told the London-based Arabic newspapers *ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT* in a brief statement Tuesday that preparations were now accordingly underway to hold the PNC meeting.

Referring again to the result of the Israeli general election, he reiterated that "we Palestinians do not harbour any great hopes about prospects of a resolution" to the dispute by the victory of either of two main parties in Israel, Likud or Labour.

More on Reaction to Soviet Peace Proposals

Salah Khalaf on Proposals

JN311203 Amman SAWT ASH-SHA'B in Arabic 31 Jul 84 pp 1, 19

[Text] Tunis — *SAWT ASH-SHA'B* — Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad] has called for a joint Palestinian-Jordanian-Syrian coordination within an effective framework of Arab solidarity during the current stage to confront the fierce Zionist onslaught against the Palestine question and the Arab nation. In an exclusive statement to *SAWT ASH-SHA'B*, Khalaf said that such coordination is necessary in order to confront all possibilities of aggression, especially after the results of the recent Israeli elections, which exposed the Zionist extremism toward the Palestinian people and the Arabs, and in light of the continuation of differences in the Arab arena and the Iraq-Iran war. Khalaf added: It is necessary to stop the Iraq-Iran war which is exhausting the two countries and end the side differences among the Arab states.

He pointed out that the PLO bears no rancor against any side, and that it is concerned about removing all the differences between it and the Syrian and Libyan brothers. He explained that there are contacts taking place between the Fatah Movement on the one hand and Libya and Syria on the other. He expressed the hope that these contacts will bring positive results in the interest of the joint pan-Arab objectives.

Abu Iyad stressed that the Fatah Movement is concerned, more than at any time before, about implementing what has been reached with the factions of the Democratic Alliance in accordance with the Aden agreement.

He said that any statements made by this or that side will not affect the essence of the Aden agreement, because it is the possession of the Palestinian people whose masses inside and outside the occupied territories have expressed their complete support for it, and expressed their concern about the PLO's unity and about safeguarding its course of struggle against imperialism and Zionism. He said that this represented a popular referendum that proves the firmness of the march and the sincerity of its course of serving the continuous struggle on the road of liberation and of restoring our people's rights to repatriation, self-determination, and the independent state.

On the results of the recent Israeli elections, Khalaf said: The results of the recent Israeli elections have exposed the Zionist entity's hostile nature and the escalation of the extremist course of all the political parties and forces in this entity. He said that these election results have also shattered the erroneous impression regarding the effect of the "peace camp" in Israel. Khalaf called for a unified Arab stand that is based on pan-Arab will and international support to confront these new developments in the Israeli arena.

Abu Iyad described the Soviet proposals for a peaceful settlement in the Middle East as the clearest international proposals that have so far been proposed.

He said that these proposals constitute a practical reply to all the hostile U.S. proposals, which are based on complete support for the expansionist and hostile Zionist policy against the Palestinian land.

He said that the Soviet proposals are in harmony with the international resolutions calling for the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. In addition to this, he added: These proposals provide the mechanism of implementation and gain the wide support of the international community and all the states that love peace, security, and justice in the world.

Qaddumi Voices PLO Support

JN311739 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 31 Jul 84

[Text] Brother Abu al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], head of the PLO Political Department, has voiced the PLO's support for the new Soviet proposal to solve the Middle East problem and to establish just peace based on achieving the Palestinian people's aspirations, goals, and inalienable and national rights.

In a statement to TASS, Qaddumi said that the new Soviet proposal reflects a sincere desire and determination to reach a just settlement of the Palestinian people's cause.

He added that while the PLO considers this Soviet initiative a positive move, it likes to note the stand of both the United States and Israel — a stand which rejects international initiatives seeking to establish peace and to reach a just settlement of the Middle East crisis. He noted the U.S.-Israeli denial of the Palestinian people's national rights and their nonrecognition of the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative.

Qaddumi affirmed that the Palestinian people, who are struggling to regain their rights, support international efforts to reach a just solution in the region that guarantees the PLO's participation in these efforts — a solution that also guarantees their returning to their land and establishing their Palestinian state on it. Concluding, Qaddumi said that holding an international conference in which all parties will participate is the most ideal means of reaching a just and comprehensive solution.

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Commenting on the hijacking the Islamic Republican Party newspaper *JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI* stressed that the "children of Islam" will continue to deal "the necessary blows" against the French Government, terming the "diversion" of the French plane "an act against terrorism," according to AFP.

In Paris, former President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr speculated that the hijacking was arranged by certain groups in the Iranian regime in order to undermine those officials who favor improved relations with the West, the clandestine Free Voice of Iran radio reported. According to Bani-Sadr, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni failed to express an opinion on the hijackers because he is very ill.

Majlis Vote — The Majlis voted 163 to 21 in favor of the vote of confidence called for by Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, IRNA reported on 5 August. Twenty-five deputies abstained in the vote, which followed a 6-hour debate during which the prime minister reviewed and defended his government's record. Supporting the motion, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani praised the government's successes though he admitted that affairs could have been managed better, according to IRNA.

Lebanon

Political Developments — The security plan for the Ash-Shuf mountain area will top all other issues at the Cabinet session on 8 August, Beirut radio reported. The Cabinet was expected to consider a new formula for this plan during an extraordinary session on 6 August but the meeting was canceled because contacts in this regard "failed," the radio noted. Earlier, Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) leader Walid Junblatt stressed that he has obstructed the security plan because the PSP wants to be sure that when the Army enters the Druze areas, it will also enter the Maronite areas controlled by the Phalangists. In his remarks, which were broadcast by the PSP's clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio, Junblatt also warned that his forces will not lay down their weapons until "a minimum of balance" has been established in the army.

Military/Security Situation — Although Beirut radio reported that the Lebanese Army fired at Israeli gunboats that approached the Beirut coast on 3 August, the IDF spokesman subsequently denied any knowledge of this incident, according to Jerusalem radio. In southeastern Lebanon, an IDF soldier was killed and two others were wounded when their vehicle hit a mine in the 'Ammiq area on 5 August, Jerusalem television reported. Around 270 "attempted attacks" against the IDF have been recorded since April, according to Jerusalem radio. In a separate development, Beirut radio reported that the PSP has reached a security agreement with Al-Murabitun, the Sunni militia in Beirut which has clashed with PSP forces in the past.

Polyakov Visit — Diplomatic sources cited by Beirut radio confirmed that Lebanon welcomes the convocation of an international conference on the Middle East problem, as proposed by Soviet envoy Vladimir Polyakov during his talks with Lebanese officials in Beirut over the weekend. The Lebanese asked Polyakov for a "positive" Soviet stand toward Lebanon's demand for a renewal of the UNIFIL mandate, the sources added.

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'Arafat Approves USSR Middle East Initiative

LD032341 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Mr Yasir 'Arafat received yesterday the Soviet charge d'affaires in Tunisia and received from him the text of the Soviet initiative concerning the Middle East issue.

On this occasion, Mr Yasir 'Arafat gave the Soviet charge d'affaires a message, which was described as important, to the Soviet leadership concerning the approval of Palestinian leadership of this initiative which comes in the shadows of the grave circumstances through which the Arab region is passing.

Mr Yasir 'Arafat also conveyed thanks in the name of the PLO Central Committee and of the Palestinian people to the Soviet leadership for its concern for the just cause of the Palestinian people.

This concern was expressed in the Soviet initiative when it specified the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and to establish the independent Palestinian state on the soil of Palestine and specified the issue of Jerusalem as the central issue.

USSR Spokesman Cited on Proposals

JN031934 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] A USSR Foreign Ministry spokesman has said that his country is pursuing a firm policy that supports the restoration of Arab rights.

He affirmed that the USSR insists on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state under the PLO, the Palestinian people's sole, legitimate representative.

In a statement to Arab journalists in Moscow yesterday, he described the USSR's recent proposals for finding a just, peaceful solution to the Middle East issue as an integrated project in which new ideas embrace the progress of events in the region and the Fes Arab summit resolutions.

The Soviet spokesman attacked the swift U.S. and Zionist rejection of the USSR proposals, which call for convening an international conference for achieving a just peace in the Middle East. He said that the U.S.-Zionist poistion did not come as a surprise and that it reaffirms the true nature of U.S. policy, which opposes achieving a just peaceful settlement.

He said that Tel Aviv and Washington described the USSR proposals as unconstructive because both realize that a just peace in the Middle East will eliminate U.S.-Zionist domination in the region.

The USSR spokesman affirmed that the intransigent U.S.-Zionist stand necessitates more efforts to convene such a conference. He said that the important thing is to increase the political pressure on the United States to ultimately convince it of the futility of the policy of giving comprehensive support to the Zionist entity.

Further on Fatah Central Committee Meeting

Meets 3 Aug

JN032019 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1948 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 3 Aug (INA) — The Fatah Central Committee met here tonight under PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. This meeting is one of a series of meetings which began on 29 July to discuss the latest Palestinian developments.

The Fatah Central Committee is expected to hear a report by Khalil al-Wazir, Abu Jihad, member of the committee, on his recent visit to Algiers during which he led the Fatah delegation to the preliminary meeting for the expanded Palestinian meeting to be held in Algiers shortly.

Yasir 'Arafat will brief the Fatah Central Committee on the results of his Arab and Asian tour and the results of the Islamic Good Offices Committee meeting, which was held last month. The committee will also discuss the problem of convening the 17th PNC session before 15 September 1984.

'Arafat Attends Session

LD032327 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 3 Aug 84

[Text] The Fatah Central Committee resumed Friday evening in Tunis its session with the attendance of Mr Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, after a 2-day stoppage due to the meetings of the organization's Executive Committee.

Talks Near Completion

LD041629 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 4 Aug 84

[Excerpts] Tunis, 4 Aug (KUNA) — Fatah Central Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas announced today that the Central Committee will tonight end its open session meetings, which began here 29 July.

'Abbas told KUNA that the final communique, which is expected to be issued tomorrow, will not depart from the framework of the 30 July statement announced by a spokesman for the Central Committee.

Fatah Official on Meetings

GF051908 Doha QNA in Arabic 1805 GMT 5 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 5 Aug (QNA) — The Fatah Central Committee [FCC] has stressed the need to hold the Arab summit conference and to prepare the appropriate atmosphere to ensure its success and enable it to overcome the current crisis and restore Arab solidarity to face all challenges facing the Arab homeland.

In a statement to the QNA correspondent in Tunis, FCC member Khalid al-Hasan said that the FCC met last night in a session which lasted until early this morning. The FCC devoted special attention to the activities of the Islamic Good Offices Committee

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'Arafat Addresses African Conference in Tunis

JN081755 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 8 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has addressed a conference on solidarity with the African peoples' struggle which began its work in Tunis yesterday. In his address, Abu 'Ammar said: History has proved that racists and imperialists cannot achieve their objectives against our Arab and African peoples unless they deal with us unilaterally. He added: When we unite and are determined to struggle, we will be able to defeat them and achieve victories.

Abu 'Ammar said: The Palestinian people recently faced a dangerous conspiracy similar to the conspiracy being concocted against the Namibian people. This conspiracy was devised by the U.S. Administration and others and is meant to strike at the PLO to liquidate its infrastructure and split its institutions. He added: We must confirm here the lesson that we derive from history: that victory can only be achieved through the unity of both the people and their struggling groups and also through armed struggle and sacrifices. This is in addition to wisdom, which is needed to steer the policy that can translate a military victory into a political one; a policy that is characterized by making initiatives, not by running after slogans or remaining subject to hesitation.

Abu 'Ammar said: Our brothers in Africa are aware of the fact that Israeli infiltration in Africa aims at cracking Arab- African relations and solidarity and at imposing economic hegemony on African countries through the companies to whose financing both the racist and facist regimes in Pretoria and Tel Aviv contribute. We call on everyone here to be cautious and to boycott these new colonialist centers according to the UN resolutions.

'Arafat Makes Statement to Tunisian Radio, TV

JN081837 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 8 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has emphasized that the Zionist entity is currently suffering from a political, military, and economic dilemma and is witnessing a state of complete confusion in all fields.

In a statement he made to Tunisian radio and television yesterday, Abu 'Ammar said that the results of the recent Zionist elections embody this dilemma and state of confusion. He added that the Zionist entity is currently facing a successful war of attrition waged by the Palestinians and the Lebanese and that the Zionist entity is trying to discharge its anger, which is a result of the heroic and successful operations against its forces, by savagely raiding Al-Aranib Island, Al-Baddawi, and Nahr al-Barid from the air and sea.

'Arafat touched on the conspiracies that are being devised against the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland. He said that these conspiracies are represented by Judaizing Islamic and Christian holy shrines, expropriating lands, and building settlements with U.S. approval and funds. He added that the Palestinian people inside the occupied homeland are currently paying 38 types of taxes to the Zionist occupation authorities, which is only a small amount of the pressure and terrorism imposed on them. He said these taxes are in addition to their oppression by the Zionist terrorist organizations that are sponsored, financed, and armed by these authorities.

Abu 'Ammar said that the PLO will make great efforts during the forthcoming UN session to propose holding an international conference on the Middle East problem.

Abu 'Ammar expressed his pride with our Palestinian people's steadfastness and rallying around the PLO, their legitimate representative, during difficult circumstances. He noted that the Paelstinian groups have agreed to hold the PNC session as soon as possible in order to strengthen the Palestinian revolution and to confront the challenges and new developments in both the Palestinian and Arab arenas.

'Arafat To Propose International Conference

JN081810 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1614 GMT 8 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] has said that at the forthcoming UN session, the PLO will propose holding an international conference to deal with the Middle East problem.

In a news conference he held following the first session of the conference on solidarity with the South African people's struggle against racism, Abu 'Ammar affirmed that the PNC will meet during the second half of August and the first half of September 1984. He condemned the Zionist attempts to Judaize both the Islamic and Christian holy shrines in the occupied Palestinian territories. He said that the Zionist entity is currently witnessing a state of confusion, revealed by the recent Zionist elections. He reiterated that among the causes for this state of confusion is economic inflation, which has reached a recorded level of 400 percent.

Fatah Central Committee Tunis Statement

GF072027 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Aug 84

["Text" of statement issued by the Fatah Central Committee after its meetings in Tunis on 6 August]

[Text] On 3 August 1984, the Fatah Central Committee [FCC] resumed its meetings, which had originally begun on 29 July, but which had been suspended because of the meetings of the PLO Executive Committee. The FCC continued discussion of the items on its agenda and reviewed some previously discussed issues in terms of the new developments.

Regarding the Algiers-Aden agreement, the FCC listened to a report by the Fatah delegation which went to Algiers on 28 July and was led by Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Brothers George Habash and Nayif Hawatimah met to prepare for the comprehensive Palestinian dialogue as directed by the Algiers-Aden agreement. The FCC acquainted itself with the results of these discussions and the exchanged proposals. These proposals focused on some points dealing with the executive steps pertain-

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Gulf Conflict

The Greek tanker *Endeavor* suffered "slight damage" in an air attack on 18 August near Qatar, according to a Kuwaiti oil source cited by KUNA. In the only monitored Iranian and Iraqi reportage of the incident, Tehran radio cited Manama shipping sources who stated that an unnamed Panamanian tanker was attacked in the "Persian Gulf by an unidentified plane," while Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio referred to an AP report that stated without mentioning an attack that a fire had broken out aboard an unnamed Panamanian tanker near Bahrain. KUNA indentified the *Endeavor* as the tanker involved in the attack, and pointed out that earlier press reports had misidentified it as Panamanian.

Red Sea

British, U.S., and Egyptian minehunters began operations in the Gulf of Suez area on 17 August and have not yet discovered any mines, MENA reported. The first French minesweeping flotilla arrived in Jidda on 18 August and will be joined by additional French vessels the following week, Paris radio added. Meanwhile, Soviet minesweepers have been combing the waters off the PDRY for several days, AFP reported on 20 August citing informed Egyptian sources.

In a related development, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, in remarks to the Paris weekly *AL-MUSTAQBAL* cited by MENA, stated that his country is ready to participate in a conference of Red Sea Arab littoral countries that would reach a unified program to ensure security in the area. He also affirmed that Egypt will close the Suez Canal to any ships belonging to countries that threaten Egypt's security and safety. Concerning this Egyptian policy, Iranian Majlis Speaker Val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani warned in his Friday sermon broadcast by Tehran radio that if an Iranian vessel were to be delayed in the Suez Canal under the "pretext of inspection," then a ship belonging to Egypt's "clique" will be delayed in the Hormuz Strait in "retribution." He added that Iran has neither the power nor the policy to mine the Suez area. In response to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's warning, Cairo radio cited the Cairo paper *AL-AKHBAR*'s contention that there is no "justification" for his remarks, and that Egypt's measures are "not directed against anyone."

Lebanon

Security Situation — The security situation has "deteriorated seriously" along the Ash-Shuwayfat — Kafr Shima and Suq al-Gharb — 'Aytat lines in the mountain area, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio reported on 19 August. The radio blamed the Phalangist militia and the Lebanese Army for continuing the clashes that occurred 17 and 18 August. However, the Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that the "socialists and their allies" are causing the sniping and shelling in the area, while the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon blamed "Junblatt gunmen" for instigating the fighting that began as early as 16 August. The latter radio also reported that the military attache at the Greek Embassy was wounded during an assassination attempt in Beirut on 19 August.

Al-Awwali Bridge Closure — The Batir ash-Shuf Bridge across the Al-Awwali River was closed on 20 August for 3 days, Jerusalem radio reported. The closure is aimed at implementing "security measures" that will lead to tighter control over the passage of vehicles and goods into southern Lebanon. Lebanese Government officials, however, believe that the closure is a punitive measure taken in "retaliation" for the closure of Israel's representation in Beirut, the radio added.

Jordan

In an interview with Cable News Network broadcast by Amman Television on 18 August, Jordan's King Husayn renewed the call for an international peace conference on the Middle East based on UN Security Council Resolution No 242. The conference would include "all parties concerned" as well as the permanent members of the Security Council. According to an Israeli Government spokesman cited by the *JERUSALEM POST* on 20 August, Israel rejects Husayn's proposal because the solution to the conflict must be based on "direct talks" between the two countries.

Pakistan

DRA Attacks — In a statement broadcast by Kabul radio on 17 August, the Afghan Foreign Ministry "completely" rejected Pakistani protests concerning Afghan attacks on Pakistani territory on 13 and 14 August, describing the claims as "completely baseless and lacking in truth." Through such "accusations and baseless fabrications," the statement continued, Pakistan hopes to hide the fact that it has been transformed into a "base of aggression and undeclared war of imperialism and reaction" against the DRA. Meanwhile, Afghan planes and artillery again attacked Pakistani territory near Parachinar on 18 August, killing 16 people and wounding 6 others, Karachi radio reported.

Aeroflot Explosion — An explosion "slightly damaged" the Karachi office of Aeroflot on 18 August, Karachi radio reported, citing a Pakistani agency.

Foreign Minister Gulf Tour — Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan departed Doha on 20 August after a 3-day visit to Qatar, WAKH reported. The foreign minister had earlier met with leaders in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, KUNA noted.

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MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

21 AUGUST 1984

Palestinian Affairs

The leaders of the Palestinian National Alliance announced at a news conference in Damascus reported by Radio Monte Carlo that the planned convening of the PNC in Algiers is a "serious secessionist step" that will lead to a "historic and permanent split." The National Alliance will hold all those who participate in the PNC session "fully responsible" and will "struggle" against any Arab regime that hosts the session. The National Alliance leaders also announced that they will establish a Palestinian "nationalist salvation front," the details of which will be made clear soon.

Meanwhile, following the Fatah-Democratic Alliance meeting in Algiers to prepare for the PNC session, a DFLP spokesman cited by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio stated that those who fail to join the "national unity march" will become isolated from the Palestinian people and their "active forces."

In a related development, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat chaired a meeting of the committee in Tunis that discussed preparations for the PNC session, INA reported.

Lebanon

President Amin al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister Rashid Karami met with Syrian presidential envoy Major General Muhammad al-Khuli, and discussed the mountian security plan and security arrangements in the south, Beirut radio reported. Voice of Lebanon radio cited informed sources who stated that the leaders also discussed a summit meeting between Al-Jumayyil and Syrian President Hafiz Al-Asad, which is expected to take place this week. Karami stated in remarks cited by Beirut radio that a summit meeting is "likely at any time," possibly at the end of August.

Pakistan-DRA

Afghan forces again shelled Pakistani territory in the Teri Mangal area near Parachinar on 19 August, killing 16 people and wounding 3 others, Karachi radio reported. Pakistan strongly protested the latest attack and warned the Afghan regime that it will be responsible for "all the consequences," the radio added.

In remarks cited by Karachi radio upon his return from a Persian Gulf tour, Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan stated that the violations of Pakistani territory by Afghanistan will not affect the indirect talks in Geneva on the Afghanistan problem. However, he added, Pakistan reserves the right to take "appropriate actions at the appropriate time" for its defense. Pakistani President Mohammad Ziaul Haq, in remarks cited by the radio's English service, stated that his country has shown "utmost restraint" in regard to the border violations, but there still will be some progress at the Geneva talks if the concerned parties adopt a "forthright attitude." Meanwhile, Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost departed Kabul on 19 August for the third round of the talks in Geneva, Kabul radio reported.

Iran

The Majlis approved the appointments of the new ministers of health, industries, and culture and higher education; and approved the control of the Education and Defense Ministries by the prime minister for 2 months, Tehran radio reported.

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AS-SIYASAH: Mideast Summit Set for Bucharest

LD210845 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0752 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Kuwait, 21 Aug (KUNA) — *AS-SIYASAH* said today, attributing the news to a Western diplomatic source, that "a Middle Eastern summit will be held in the Romanian capital, Bucharest, during the next few days." The source said that the Romanian leaders have long been preparing to use their National Day celebrations, next Thursday [23 August], as a political festival dedicated to the three issues of the region — the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese problem, and the Iraq-Iran war.

The source explained: "It is as good as certain that Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri, Jordanian Crown Prince Hasan, Director of the Egyptian President's Office Dr Usamah al-Baz, adviser to the Lebanese president (Michael Samaha), PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq ash-Shar', Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz, and Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in addition to the leader of the Israeli Labor Party Shim'on Peres will be present."

The source pointed out that all the parties were prepared for the occasion to be an extraordinary opportunity for discussing the three crises away from the formalities of the international conferences, the formalities which Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu believes spoil the purposes of the conferences. The source refused to comment on news which said that Romania has prepared a Middle Eastern peace initiative to be presented in the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly next month. But he said that those who will attend the Bucharest festivities will go from there to the United Nations with joint common denominators which were not available before for the sides of the three crises.

AR-RIYAD: 'Arafat To Propose Islamic Peace Force

GF201720 Riyadh AR-RIYAD in Arabic 19 Aug 84 P 1

[Samir Sa'd Ad-Din dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] It has been learned that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will propose to the Islamic Good Offices Committee at its next meeting in Jidda a Palestinian plan to form an Islamic Peace Force [IPF] to disengage Iranian and Iraqi forces. Pilot Colonel Salim al-Lahman, who will accompany 'Arafat during his next visit to the Kingdom, has told *AR-RIYAD* that the PLO has received Turkey's and Bangladesh's approval for the forming of this force which will be made up of Islamic countries and the PLO. Other Islamic countries will support this IPF.

'Arafat Chairs PLO Executive Committee Meeting

JN201925 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1900 GMT 20 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 20 Aug (INA) — The PLO Executive Committee began a meeting here a short while ago under Yasir 'Arafat's chairmanship. INA's correspondent says the meeting will pave the way for a series of larger meetings in which various Palestinian factions and independent Palestinian personalisties will participate to prepare for the meetings of the seventh PNC session. The PLO Executive Committee is expected to discuss the results of the Palestinian dialogue in light of the Aden agreement and the possibility of holding a comprehensive Palestinian dialogue in which the Palestinian factions' secretaries general will take part.

Executive Committee To Resign

JN211320 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Tunis, 21 Aug (INA) — Responsible Palestinian sources have stated that the PLO Executive Committee will submit its resignation to the 17th PNC session scheduled to convene in Algeria in the first half of next month. The Palestinian sources told the INA correspondent that this resignation is to enable the PNC to elect a new command that will be in harmony with the circumstances of the next stage. These sources expect that a partial change will be carried out in the new PLO Executive Committee, but ruled out any unexpected changes in it.

Al-Wazir, 'Abd Rabbuh on Algiers Dialogue

JN201801 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 20 Aug 84

[Text] In a press statement after the Palestinian dialogue meeting in Algiers, Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], head of the Fatah delegation and Fatah Central Committee member, said: The meeting took place within the framework of the consolidation of practical measures to implement what was agreed in Aden and Algiers.

Abu Jihad added: All moves and efforts which consolidate our national unity were reviewed.

Brother Abu Jihad said: The conferees assessed and highly valued these efforts and moves, and agreement was reached on opening new initiatives on the basis of additional moves toward a comprehensive dialogue before the PNC convenes. He said the PNC will convene during September.

Commenting on the subject, Brother Yasir 'Abd Rabbuh, assistant secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said: During the meeting it was agreed to convene the PNC and implement the Aden-Algiers agreement.

He added: In this respect, we welcome all efforts that are being exerted, particularly by the PDRY, Algeria, and the USSR, to attain a solution to all pending problems in a manner that will safeguard the PLO's unity and activate its institutions.

Brother 'Abd Rabbuh said: Anyone who fails to join the national unity march will be isolating himself from the Palestinian people and their active forces and will be moving away from all the allies of our people on the Arab and international levels.

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'ARAFAT ARRIVES IN ALGIERS 21 AUGUST

JN211745 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] arrived in Algiers from Tunis this morning to patronize the graduation of 1,000 young male and female Palestinian cubs who received their training at the Tebessa camp in Algeria. It is worth noting that Abu 'Ammar left Jidda the night before last at the end of his 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. On his departure, 'Arafat told journalists that he acquainted King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz with the results of the Palestinian dialogue and the Aden agreement on holding a PNC session. He added that his talks with the Saudi monarch dealt with the developments in the Iraq-Iran war and the Islamic committee's efforts on ending this war.

BAGHDAD PLO RADIO STRESSES NEED FOR PNC SESSION

JN211943 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1645 GMT 21 Aug 84

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Brothers: The importance of holding the PNC on its fixed date next month according to the Palestinian Aden-Algiers agreement is emphasized daily. The importance of holding the PNC was noted in the Algiers statement issued the day before yesterday by the Palestinian dialogue committee. This statement reiterated the need to hold the PNC on its fixed date. In view of numerous foreign attempts to prevent the PNC convocation on either its scheduled date or on any other date, the holding of the PNC session on the fixed date emerges as a very important and persistent national need. These attempts, which seek to prevent the convocation and to foil all Palestinian efforts toward it, are part of the plan aimed at destroying the PLO, its revolutionary legitimacy, and its independent decisionmaking, particularly since the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. The convocation of the PNC on its fixed date will be a strong response and a hard blow to these attempts. This matter in particular, is a primary national duty which must be shouldered by all free-thinking Palestinian groups. It will, thus, be a beginning for pursuing and intensifying efforts to convene the PNC on its fixed date. The firm and principled aspect of the present Palestinian national struggle is to confront any external force, regardless of its identity or location, which tries to impose its will and political decisionmaking in the Palestinian arena. It is certainly obvious that the attempts to hamper the convocation of the PNC, besides what we have affirmed in this regard, fall within this premise.

Moreover, the national need to hold the PNC on its fixed date is important to restore and revive the legitimate Palestinian institutions and frameworks so they may continue their effective role of struggle at various levels and serve the Palestinian national liberation march. Undoubtedly, the adoption of a Palestinian decision drawing up the duties of the forthcoming phase of the Palestinian struggle and outlining the methods for confronting the U.S.-Israeli enemy's plans aimed at liquidating the Palestinian national cause, will have great importance, a strong echo, and firm credibility and effectiveness, particularly since this decision will be made at the most important and largest Palestinian legitimate institution, the PNC. Certainly, the PLO's political trend to confront the forthcoming U.S.-Israeli plan must be made very clear when it is announced on the platform of this Palestinian legitimacy. This trend will certainly take an objective course that will assert a real and firm fact in the region's conflict -- namely, the difficult Palestinian number, which cannot be overlooked. The convocation of the PNC on its fixed date is a continuing national need. All Palestinian efforts must be concentrated and intensified to fulfill this need, which is our primary duty in this current phase.

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Lebanon

Chief of Staff's Death — Reacting to the death of Army Chief of Staff Major General Nadim al-Hakim, the highest-ranking Druze militaryman, in a helicopter crash, Druze political leader Walid Junblatt stated in remarks reported by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio that it increases "our reservations about the role of the military establishment" and that investigations will not be "convincing." Al-Hakim's death will increase the determination to "march" from the "accursed ruling party," Junblatt added. Regarding the crash, "security reports said there was no collision and witnesses said the helicopter was burning before it crashed, according to Voice of the Mountain. The radio reported that the funeral for Al-Hakim and two others will be on 25 August.

Political Developments — Junblatt met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in Damascus and discussed the security plan for the mountain, Beirut radio reported. Junblatt then returned to Beirut after canceling his visit to Romania, Radio Monte Carlo added. Khaddam also received in separate meetings an Islamic delegation from Tripoli and the leader of the Democratic Arab Party, and discussed with them plans for a cease-fire in the city, the radio disclosed. After departing Damascus, the Islamic delegation met with Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Beirut to inform him of their talks, Beirut radio reported. Karami also received Saudi mediator Rafiz al-Hariri, and they discussed political and security developments as well as plans for reconstructing areas in Beirut, the radio noted.

Bridge to South — the Batir ash-Shuf Bridge across the Al-Awwali River was reopened after being closed since 19 August, Jerusalem radio reported. Travelers may now travel across only as pedestrians or via organized public transportation.

Libya-Syria

Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar Al-Qadhdhafi and Revolution Command Council member Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Vice President Khaddam following the Syrian delegation's arrival in Banghazi, SANA reported. In remarks upon his arrival cited by the agency, Al-Asad stated that the visit is in the context of exchanging views on bilateral relations and pan-Arab issues.

Egypt

Ambassador to the USSR Salah Basyuni departed Cairo to take up his new post in Moscow, Cairo radio reported.

Gulf Conflict

The Iraqi Air Force "effectively hit" a "large maritime target" south of Khark Island on 24 August, according to an Iraqi military spokesman cited by Baghdad radio. Lloyd's of London identified the vessel as the Cypriot tanker *Amethystos* and reported that a "serious" fire had broken out on board, AFP added. The Iraqi Air Force had earlier "accurately and effectively hit" a "large maritime target" south of Khark Island at 1040 GMT on 23 August, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Baghdad radio. Monitored Iranian sources have not reported either attack, although Bushehr radio had announced a "red alert condition" for Bushehr at 1035 GMT on 23 August because of the "danger of an air attack."

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Numayri, 'Arafat Hold Talks in Bucharest

JN231101 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] Bucharest, 23 Aug (SUNA) — President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri received here yesterday PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. 'Arafat stated that they discussed a number of Arab, Palestinian, and bilateral issues during the meeting. He described the meeting as positive and good, because he found that President Numayri fully understands the cause, especially the crimes and threats against the Islamic and Christian sites in Jerusalem as well as the Judaization plot against the holy city.

'Arafat said that he informed President Numayri of the results of the Palestinian dialogue and the Aden and Algiers agreements, including the agreement on the PNC meeting to be held in Algiers in September.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Hashim 'Uthman; 'Umar Yasin, minister of state for political affairs at the president's office; Muhammad Mahjub Sulayman, President Numayri's press adviser; the delegation accompanying President Numayri; Ahmad Muhammad Diyab, Sudan's ambassador to Romania; PLO Executive Committee member 'Abd ar-Rahim Ahmad; Fatah Revolutionary Council member Nabil 'Amr; and 'Izzat Abu ar-Rub, PLO representative in Bucharest.

Fatah, PLF To Implement Aden Document

JN231741 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Text] The Fatah movement and the Palestinian Liberation Front [PLF] have announced an agreement to work toward implementing what was stipulated in the Palestinian Aden-Algiers document in order to reinforce Palestinian national unity, support the PLO's unity, and preserve the PLO's independent political decisionmaking. This necessitates convening the PNC on the agreed date.

This came in a recent meeting between the Fatah and PLF delegations in Tunis. The Fatah delegation was headed by Brother Abu al-Hawl [Hayk 'Abd al-Hamid], Fatah Central Committee member, and the PLF delegation was headed by Brother Abu al-'Abbas, the PLF's assistant secretary general.

Al-Wazir Comments on Algiers-Aden Agreement

JN232020 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1626 GMT 23 Aug 84

[Excerpt] Following his return to Amman from the Algiers and Tunis meetings, Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has said the following: To complete the practical measures supporting the Algiers-Aden agreement, which was reached during the Palestinian dialogue, the last meeting of parties to the dialogue was held in Algiers on 18 August 1984 according to a prior agreement.

The conferees discussed the new developments and activities toward implementing the agreement, as well as Palestinian, Arab, and international contacts. They also reviewed the support of our people and their national institutions in the occupied land, our people everywhere in the refugee camps in Syria, Lebanon, and southern Lebanon, the popular organizations, unions, associations, workers and professional federations, numerous Arab and international institutions, and of many friendly sides for convening the PNC. They all expressed appreciation for the nature and importance of the Algiers-Aden agreement toward overcoming the obstacles that hampered the unity of national Palestinian action and the unity of the PLO and its continuing vanguard struggle role in all arenas.

The conferees from Fatah, the PFLP, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestinian Liberation Front, and the Communist Party expressed appreciation for this response in favor of the agreement, which embodies the sincere will to achieve Palestinian national unity, protect the PLO's unity and legitimacy, and confront attempts to paralyze our Palestinian institutions and undermine their role in all fields.

The conferees issued a statement in which they affirmed their adherence to convene the PNC in due time, no later than 15 September 1984, in accordance with the Algiers-Aden agreement. The views of all participating sides affirmed that they insist on going ahead with all the appropriate steps for convening the PNC. They affirmed that it is in the interest and credibility of all levels of the Palestinian struggle to implement all necessary steps to convene the PNC in due time in order to restore order to and protect the Palestinian house.

When discussing the national comprehensive dialogue advocated by the parties to the Algiers-Aden agreement, the stand of the Damascus parties, such as the As-Sa'iqah and the Jibril and Ghawshah groups, became clear. They reject the principle of dialogue except under their announced conditions which are aimed at establishing a so-called alternative national front to lead national action. They refuse to deal with any institution or meeting in which Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] is involved as an excuse for continuing to hamper the work of the PLO and its organs.

As parties that signed the Algiers-Aden agreement, which included the Fatah movement, we have reaffirmed our eagerness to keep the door open for the parties in Damascus to enable them to attend the comprehensive national dialogue, which we have callled forwithout any preconditions. We said that we extend our arms and open our hearts for a comprehensive dialogue that includes all of us and through which we would discuss all our issues. We said that we were willing to accept any new ideas and to develop any existing proposals without any reservations. We would do this in a spirit of struggle that would rise above all past wounds suffered at the hands of those who took up arms against their revolution and their people's refugee camps and who sought to strike at the PLO and its achievements.

We do not do this from a position of weakness or by surrendering to this or that party's blackmail. We do this because we realize the historical responsibility making it incumbent upon every individual sincere to his cause to prevent his revolution and cause from drowning in the doldrums of bloody conflicts and continuous division and differences.

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